

Arsenal Officials Say 'Hot Charge' Caused Blast

Joliet arsenal officials Thursday announced that a "hot charge" in the tri-nitrate house on the number five TNT line was responsible for the explosion which resulted in damages estimated at \$100,000.

The "hot charge" is a term applied to a chemical reaction which sometimes occurs in the mixing of TNT ingredients.

The three workmen who fled the building prior to the explosion are: Peter Van Duyne, Wilmington; Paul L. Warner, 406 Dellwood Ave., Lockport; and William Bratcher, 566 South Evergreen Ave., Kankakee.

Arsenal spokesmen said the tri-nitrate operators are trained to recognize a developing "hot charge" and are taught the procedure to follow.

Damage to the equipment was estimated at \$75,000. The building itself was damaged to the extent of \$25,000.